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EXAMINER	
COLAN, GIOVANNA B	
ART UNIT	**PAPER NUMBER**
2162	

DATE MAILED: 11/01/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/695,465	KOUMARU, IKUO	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Giovanna Colan	2162	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *23 August 2006*.

2a)☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☐ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1-8 and 12-17* is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1-8 and 12-17* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1. This action is issued in response to the Amendment filed on 08/23/2006.

2. Claims 1 – 8 were amended. Claims 9 – 11 were canceled. Claims 12 – 17 were added.

3. This action is made Final.

4. Claims 1 – 8, and 12 – 17 are pending in this application.

5. Applicant's arguments with respect to amended claims 1 – 8 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

6. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

> A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –
>
> (e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

7. Claim 1 – 8, and 12 – 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Steiner al. (Steiner hereinafter) (US Patent Pub. App. No. 2003/0065774 A1, filed: May 24, 2001).

Regarding Claim 1, Steiner discloses a storage medium having stored therein an organization information recording program operable for recording organization structures formed by combining a plurality of acting organization objects, the program comprising:

an acting organization object mode designating unit including an input information designating unit (Fig. 2, item 201, Page 2, [0024], lines 1 – 4, resource requester, Steiner) operable to designate input information for one or more of the objects (Fig. 3, item 311, Page 4, [0038], lines 5 – 10, the resource requester transmits a resource query to one or more search brokers, Steiner), an output information designating unit (Fig. 2, item 205, Page 2, [0024], lines 1 – 4, resource provider, Steiner) operable to designate output information for one or more of the objects (Fig. 3, item 304, Page 4, [0036], lines 3 – 6, finds search brokers, Steiner), an auxiliary input information designating unit (Fig. 2, item 203, Page 2, [0024], lines 4 – 6, broker computer, Steiner) operable to designate auxiliary input information for one or more of the objects (Fig. 3, item 309, Page 4, [0039], lines 3 – 9, SEND: ResourceQuery to RESOURCE PROVIDERS, Steiner), and an auxiliary output information designating unit (Fig. 2, item 207, Page 2 and 6, [0024] and [0088], lines 1 – 4 and 1 – 5; respectively, resource provider, Steiner) operable to designate auxiliary output information for one or more of the objects (Fig. 3, item 304, Page 4, [0036], lines 3 – 6, finds search brokers, Steiner).

an acting organization object recording unit including an input information storage unit operable to store (Page 3, Table 1, [0027] and [0029], lines 4 – 6 and 1 – 4; respectively, Steiner[1]) the input information (Page 2, [0012], lines 4 – 6, input specific search, Steiner), an output information storage unit operable to store output information (Page 2, and 4, [0014], and [0042], lines 10 – 13, and 1 – 6; respectively, Steiner), an auxiliary input information storage unit operable to store the auxiliary input information (Page 2, and 3, [0012], and [0027], lines 4 – 6, and 4 – 6, findResourceProviders, and maintain a database; respectively, Steiner), and auxiliary output information storage unit operable to store the auxiliary output information (Page 2, [0014], lines 10 – 13, Steiner),

in which for a respective object (Page 5, [0048], lines "search resources", Steiner), the input information is a first object connected to the respective object which occurs before the respective object (Fig. 3, item 311, Page 4, [0038], lines 5 – 10, the resource requester transmits a resource query to one or more search brokers, Steiner), the output information is a second object connected to the respective object which occurs after the respective object (Fig. 3, item 304, Page 4, [0036], lines 3 – 6, finds search brokers, Steiner), the input auxiliary information is a third object connected to the respective object which occurs before the respective object and which is different from the first object (Fig. 3, item 309, Page 4, [0039], lines 3 – 9, the search broker forwards the resource query to those candidate resource providers, Steiner), and the output auxiliary information is a fourth object connected to the respective object which occurs

[1] Wherein the step of maintaining a database, particularly a table (as cited in Page 3, Table 1, Steiner)

after the respective object and which is different from the second object (Page 2, [0014], lines 10 – 13, Steiner).

Regarding Claim 2, Steiner discloses an storage medium, wherein

one of said input information and said auxiliary input information and said output information and said auxiliary output information are made exchangeable regarding properties relating to said input information, said output information, said auxiliary input information, and output information (Page 2, [0026], lines 1 – 12, Steiner[2]).

Regarding Claim 3, Steiner discloses a storage medium having stored therein an organization information recording program operable for recording organization structures formed by combining a plurality of acting organization objects, the program comprising:

an acting organization object mode designating unit including an input information designating unit (Fig. 2, item 201, Page 2, [0024], lines 1 – 4, resource requester, Steiner) operable to designate input information for one or more of the objects (Fig. 3, item 311, Page 4, [0038], lines 5 – 10, the resource requester transmits a resource query to one or more search brokers, Steiner) and an auxiliary input information designating unit (Fig. 2, item 203, Page 2, [0024], lines 4 – 6, broker computer, Steiner) operable to designate auxiliary input information for one or more of

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including a Resource, ResourceDescription, and ResourceQuery corresponds to the step of storing the input information as claimed.

[2] Wherein examiner interprets the step of changing a given node's role as the step of making information exchangeable regarding properties claimed.

the objects (Fig. 3, item 309, Page 4, [0039], lines 3 – 9, SEND: ResourceQuery to RESOURCE PROVIDERS, Steiner); and

an acting organization object recording unit including an input information storage unit operable to store (Page 3, Table 1, [0027] and [0029], lines 4 – 6 and 1 – 4; respectively, Steiner[3]) the input information (Page 2, [0012], lines 4 – 6, input specific search, Steiner) and an auxiliary input information storage unit operable to store the auxiliary input information (Page 2, and 3, [0012], and [0027], lines 4 – 6, and 4 – 6, findResourceProviders, and maintain a database; respectively, Steiner),

in which for a respective object (Page 5, [0048], lines "search resources", Steiner), the input information is a first object connected to the respective object which occurs before the respective object (Fig. 3, item 311, Page 4, [0038], lines 5 – 10, the resource requester transmits a resource query to one or more search brokers, Steiner), and the input auxiliary information is a second object connected to the respective object which occurs before the respective object and which is different from the first object (Fig. 3, item 309, Page 4, [0039], lines 3 – 9, the search broker forwards the resource query to those candidate resource providers, Steiner).

Regarding Claim 4, Steiner a storage medium having stored therein an organization information recording program operable for recording organization

[3] Wherein the step of maintaining a database, particularly a table (as cited in Page 3, Table 1, Steiner) including a Resource, ResourceDescription, and ResourceQuery corresponds to the step of storing the input information as claimed.

structures formed by combining a plurality of acting organization objects, the program comprising:

an acting organization object mode designating unit including an output information designating unit (Fig. 2, item 205, Page 2, [0024], lines 1 – 4, resource provider, Steiner) operable to designate output information for one or more of the objects (Fig. 3, item 304, Page 4, [0036], lines 3 – 6, finds search brokers, Steiner) and an auxiliary output information designating unit (Fig. 2, item 207, Page 2 and 6, [0024] and [0088], lines 1 – 4 and 1 – 5; respectively, resource provider, Steiner) operable to designate auxiliary output information for one or more of the objects (Fig. 3, item 304, Page 4, [0036], lines 3 – 6, finds search brokers, Steiner); and

an acting organization object recording unit including an output information storage unit operable to store output information (Page 2, and 4, [0014], and [0042], lines 10 – 13, and 1 – 6; respectively, Steiner) and auxiliary output information storage unit operable to store the auxiliary output information (Page 2, [0014], lines 10 – 13, Steiner),

in which for a respective object (Page 5, [0048], lines "search resources", Steiner), the output information is a first object connected to the respective object which occurs after the respective object (Fig. 3, item 304, Page 4, [0036], lines 3 – 6, finds search brokers, Steiner), and the output auxiliary information is a second object connected to the respective object which occurs after the respective object and which is different from the first object (Page 2, [0014], lines 10 – 13, Steiner).

Regarding Claim 5, Steiner discloses a storage medium having stored therein an organization information recording program operable for recording organization structures formed by combining a plurality of acting organization objects, the program comprising:

an acting organization object mode designating unit including an input information designating unit (Fig. 2, item 201, Page 2, [0024], lines 1 – 4, resource requester, Steiner) operable to designate input information for one or more of the objects (Fig. 3, item 311, Page 4, [0038], lines 5 – 10, the resource requester transmits a resource query to one or more search brokers, Steiner), an output information designating unit (Fig. 2, item 205, Page 2, [0024], lines 1 – 4, resource provider, Steiner) operable to designate output information for one or more of the objects (Fig. 3, item 304, Page 4, [0036], lines 3 – 6, finds search brokers, Steiner), an auxiliary input information designating unit (Fig. 2, item 203, Page 2, [0024], lines 4 – 6, broker computer, Steiner) operable to designate auxiliary input information for one or more of the objects (Fig. 3, item 309, Page 4, [0039], lines 3 – 9, SEND: ResourceQuery to RESOURCE PROVIDERS, Steiner), and an auxiliary output information designating unit (Fig. 2, item 207, Page 2 and 6, [0024] and [0088], lines 1 – 4 and 1 – 5; respectively, resource provider, Steiner) operable to designate auxiliary output information for one or more of the objects (Fig. 3, item 304, Page 4, [0036], lines 3 – 6, finds search brokers, Steiner).

an acting organization object recording unit including an input information storage unit operable to store (Page 3, Table 1, [0027] and [0029], lines 4 – 6 and 1 – 4;

respectively, Steiner[4]) the input information (Page 2, [0012], lines 4 – 6, input specific search, Steiner), an output information storage unit operable to store output information (Page 2, and 4, [0014], and [0042], lines 10 – 13, and 1 – 6; respectively, Steiner), an auxiliary input information storage unit operable to store the auxiliary input information (Page 2, and 3, [0012], and [0027], lines 4 – 6, and 4 – 6, findResourceProviders, and maintain a database; respectively, Steiner), and auxiliary output information storage unit operable to store the auxiliary output information (Page 2, [0014], lines 10 – 13, Steiner),

an acting organization object analyzing unit for analyzing performance relating combination of plurality of acting organization objects in accordance with a relation between input information property and output information property based on the objects recorded said acting organization object recording unit (Page 6, [0084], lines 1 – 7, Steiner[5]).

in which for a respective object (Page 5, [0048], lines "search resources", Steiner), the input information is a first object connected to the respective object which occurs before the respective object (Fig. 3, item 311, Page 4, [0038], lines 5 – 10, the resource requester transmits a resource query to one or more search brokers, Steiner), the output information is a second object connected to the respective object which occurs after the respective object (Fig. 3, item 304, Page 4, [0036], lines 3 – 6, finds

[4] Wherein the step of maintaining a database, particularly a table (as cited in Page 3, Table 1, Steiner) including a Resource, ResourceDescription, and ResourceQuery corresponds to the step of storing the input information as claimed.
[5] Wherein examiner interprets the step of transforming the query terms into an index using a hash function as the step of analyzing performance relating combination of acting objects in accordance with a relation claimed.

search brokers, Steiner), the input auxiliary information is a third object connected to the respective object which occurs before the respective object and which is different from the first object (Fig. 3, item 309, Page 4, [0039], lines 3 – 9, the search broker forwards the resource query to those candidate resource providers, Steiner), and the output auxiliary information is a fourth object connected to the respective object which occurs after the respective object and which is different from the second object (Page 2, [0014], lines 10 – 13, Steiner).

Regarding Claim 6, Steiner discloses a storage medium having stored therein an organization information recording program operable for recording organization structures formed by combining a plurality of acting organization objects, the program comprising:

an acting organization object mode designating unit including an input information designating unit (Fig. 2, item 201, Page 2, [0024], lines 1 – 4, resource requester, Steiner) operable to designate input information for one or more of the objects (Fig. 3, item 311, Page 4, [0038], lines 5 – 10, the resource requester transmits a resource query to one or more search brokers, Steiner) and an auxiliary input information designating unit (Fig. 2, item 203, Page 2, [0024], lines 4 – 6, broker computer, Steiner) operable to designate auxiliary input information for one or more of the objects (Fig. 3, item 309, Page 4, [0039], lines 3 – 9, SEND: ResourceQuery to RESOURCE PROVIDERS, Steiner);

an acting organization object recording unit including an input information storage unit operable to store (Page 3, Table 1, [0027] and [0029], lines 4 – 6 and 1 – 4; respectively, Steiner[6]) the input information (Page 2, [0012], lines 4 – 6, input specific search, Steiner) and an auxiliary input information storage unit operable to store the auxiliary input information (Page 2, and 3, [0012], and [0027], lines 4 – 6, and 4 – 6, findResourceProviders, and maintain a database; respectively, Steiner); and

an acting organization object analyzing unit for analyzing a performance relating to a combination of a plurality acting organization objects in accordance with the input information property based on the objects recorded in said acting organization object recording unit (Page 6, [0084], lines 1 – 7, Steiner[7]),

in which for a respective object (Page 5, [0048], lines "search resources", Steiner), the input information is a first object connected to the respective object which occurs before the respective object (Fig. 3, item 311, Page 4, [0038], lines 5 – 10, the resource requester transmits a resource query to one or more search brokers, Steiner), and the input auxiliary information is a second object connected to the respective object which occurs before the respective object and which is different from the first object (Fig. 3, item 309, Page 4, [0039], lines 3 – 9, the search broker forwards the resource query to those candidate resource providers, Steiner).

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[6] Wherein the step of maintaining a database, particularly a table (as cited in Page 3, Table 1, Steiner) including a Resource, ResourceDescription, and ResourceQuery corresponds to the step of storing the input information as claimed.

[7] Wherein examiner interprets the step of transforming the query terms into an index using a hash function as the step of analyzing performance relating combination of acting objects in accordance with a relation claimed.

Regarding Claim 7, Steiner discloses a storage medium having stored therein an organization information recording program operable for recording organization structures formed by combining a plurality of acting organization objects, the program comprising:

an acting organization object mode designating unit including an output information designating unit (Fig. 2, item 205, Page 2, [0024], lines 1 – 4, resource provider, Steiner) operable to designate output information for one or more of the objects (Fig. 3, item 304, Page 4, [0036], lines 3 – 6, finds search brokers, Steiner) and an auxiliary output information designating unit (Fig. 2, item 207, Page 2 and 6, [0024] and [0088], lines 1 – 4 and 1 – 5; respectively, resource provider, Steiner) operable to designate auxiliary output information for one or more of the objects (Fig. 3, item 304, Page 4, [0036], lines 3 – 6, finds search brokers, Steiner);

an acting organization object recording unit including an output information storage unit operable to store output information (Page 2, and 4, [0014], and [0042], lines 10 – 13, and 1 – 6; respectively, Steiner) and auxiliary output information storage unit operable to store the auxiliary output information (Page 2, [0014], lines 10 – 13, Steiner),

an acting organization object analyzing unit analyzing performance relating a combination plurality acting organization objects accordance with the output information

property based on the objects recorded in said acting organization object recording unit (Page 6, [0077], lines 3 – 10, Steiner[8]),

in which for a respective object (Page 5, [0048], lines "search resources", Steiner), the output information is a first object connected to the respective object which occurs after the respective object (Fig. 3, item 304, Page 4, [0036], lines 3 – 6, finds search brokers, Steiner), and the output auxiliary information is a second object connected to the respective object which occurs after the respective object and which is different from the first object (Page 2, [0014], lines 10 – 13, Steiner).

Regarding Claim 8, Steiner discloses a storage medium wherein

said acting organization object is equipped with an activity contents property expressing contents of activity (Page 2, [0020], lines 6 – 9, Steiner);

said acting organization analyzing unit carries out a link appropriateness inspection with regard plurality acting organization objects obtained based on properties of said acting organization object (Page 4, [0042], lines 6 – 13, Steiner[9]).

Regarding Claim 12, Steiner discloses a storage medium having stored therein an organization information recording program operable for recording organization structures formed by combining a plurality of acting organization objects, the program comprising the steps of:

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[8] Wherein examiner interprets the agent's hash table as the acting organization object analyzing unit claimed.

designating input information for one or more of the objects (Fig. 2, item 201, Page 2, [0024], lines 1 – 4, resource requester, Steiner), designating output information for one or more of the objects (Fig. 2, item 205, Page 2, [0024], lines 1 – 4, resource provider, Steiner), designating auxiliary input information for one or more of the objects (Fig. 2, item 203, Page 2, [0024], lines 4 – 6, broker computer, Steiner), and designating auxiliary output information for one or more of the objects (Fig. 2, item 207, Page 2 and 6, [0024] and [0088], lines 1 – 4 and 1 – 5; respectively, resource provider, Steiner); and

storing the input information (Page 3, Table 1, [0027] and [0029], lines 4 – 6 and 1 – 4; respectively, Steiner[10]), the output information (Page 2, and 4, [0014], and [0042], lines 10 – 13, and 1 – 6; respectively, Steiner), the auxiliary input information (Page 2, and 3, [0012], and [0027], lines 4 – 6, and 4 – 6, findResourceProviders, and maintain a database; respectively, Steiner), and the auxiliary output the auxiliary information (Page 2, [0014], lines 10 – 13, Steiner),

in which for a respective object (Page 5, [0048], lines "search resources", Steiner), the input information is a first object connected to the respective object which occurs before the respective object (Fig. 3, item 311, Page 4, [0038], lines 5 – 10, the resource requester transmits a resource query to one or more search brokers, Steiner), the output information is a second object connected to the respective object which

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[9] Wherein examiner interprets the step of verifying if the time has expired as the step of carrying a link appropriateness inspection claimed. The reason is because it inspects and/or checks if the time period has expired to determine if it needs to stop requesting results.

[10] Wherein the step of maintaining a database, particularly a table (as cited in Page 3, Table 1, Steiner) including a Resource, ResourceDescription, and ResourceQuery corresponds to the step of storing the input information as claimed.

occurs after the respective object (Fig. 3, item 304, Page 4, [0036], lines 3 – 6, finds search brokers, Steiner), the input auxiliary information is a third object connected to the respective object which occurs before the respective object and which is different from the first object (Fig. 3, item 309, Page 4, [0039], lines 3 – 9, the search broker forwards the resource query to those candidate resource providers, Steiner), and the output auxiliary information is a fourth object connected to the respective object which occurs after the respective object and which is different from the second object (Page 2, [0014], lines 10 – 13, Steiner).

Regarding Claim 13, Steiner discloses a storage medium having stored therein an organization information recording program operable for recording organization structures formed by combining a plurality of acting organization objects, the program comprising the steps of:

designating input information for one or more of the objects (Fig. 2, item 201, Page 2, [0024], lines 1 – 4, resource requester, Steiner), and designating auxiliary input information for one or more of the objects (Fig. 2, item 203, Page 2, [0024], lines 4 – 6, broker computer, Steiner); and

storing the input information (Page 3, Table 1, [0027] and [0029], lines 4 – 6 and 1 – 4; respectively, Steiner[11]) and the auxiliary input information (Page 2, and 3, [0012], and [0027], lines 4 – 6, and 4 – 6, findResourceProviders, and maintain a database; respectively, Steiner),

in which for a respective object (Page 5, [0048], lines "search resources", Steiner), the input information is a first object connected to the respective object which occurs before the respective object (Fig. 3, item 311, Page 4, [0038], lines 5 – 10, the resource requester transmits a resource query to one or more search brokers, Steiner), and the input auxiliary information is a second object connected to the respective object which occurs before the respective object and which is different from the first object (Fig. 3, item 309, Page 4, [0039], lines 3 – 9, the search broker forwards the resource query to those candidate resource providers, Steiner).

Regarding Claim 14, Steiner discloses a storage medium having stored therein an organization information recording program operable for recording organization structures formed by combining a plurality of acting organization objects, the program comprising the steps of:

designating output information for one or more of the objects (Fig. 2, item 205, Page 2, [0024], lines 1 – 4, resource provider, Steiner), and designating auxiliary output information for one or more of the objects (Fig. 2, item 207, Page 2 and 6, [0024] and [0088], lines 1 – 4 and 1 – 5; respectively, resource provider, Steiner); and

storing the output information (Page 2, and 4, [0014], and [0042], lines 10 – 13, and 1 – 6; respectively, Steiner) and the auxiliary output information (Page 2, [0014], lines 10 – 13, Steiner),

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[11] Wherein the step of maintaining a database, particularly a table (as cited in Page 3, Table 1, Steiner) including a Resource, ResourceDescription, and ResourceQuery corresponds to the step of storing the input information as claimed.

in which for a information and the auxiliary respective object (Page 5, [0048], lines "search resources", Steiner), the output information is a first object connected to the respective object which occurs after the respective object (Fig. 3, item 304, Page 4, [0036], lines 3 – 6, finds search brokers, Steiner), and the output auxiliary information is a second object connected to the respective object which occurs after the respective object and which is different from the first object (Page 2, [0014], lines 10 – 13, Steiner).

Regarding Claim 15, Steiner discloses a storage medium having stored therein an organization information analysis program operable for analyzing an organization expressed by combining a plurality of acting organization objects, the program comprising the steps of:

designating input information for one or more of the objects (Fig. 2, item 201, Page 2, [0024], lines 1 – 4, resource requester, Steiner), designating output information for one or more of the objects (Fig. 2, item 205, Page 2, [0024], lines 1 – 4, resource provider, Steiner), designating auxiliary input information for one or more of the objects (Fig. 2, item 203, Page 2, [0024], lines 4 – 6, broker computer, Steiner), and designating auxiliary output information for one or more of the objects (Fig. 2, item 207, Page 2 and 6, [0024] and [0088], lines 1 – 4 and 1 – 5; respectively, resource provider, Steiner);

storing the input information (Page 3, Table 1, [0027] and [0029], lines 4 – 6 and 1 – 4; respectively, Steiner[12]), the output information (Page 2, and 4, [0014], and [0042], lines 10 – 13, and 1 – 6; respectively, Steiner), the auxiliary input information (Page 2,

and 3, [0012], and [0027], lines 4 – 6, and 4 – 6, findResourceProviders, and maintain a database; respectively, Steiner), and the auxiliary output information (Page 2, [0014], lines 10 – 13, Steiner); and

analyzing a performance relating to a combination of a plurality of acting organization objects in accordance with a relation between input information property and an output information property based on the recorded objects (Page 6, [0077], and [0084], lines 3 – 10, and 1 – 7; respectively, Steiner[13]),

in which for a respective object (Page 5, [0048], lines "search resources", Steiner), the input information is a first object connected to the respective object which occurs before the respective object (Fig. 3, item 311, Page 4, [0038], lines 5 – 10, the resource requester transmits a resource query to one or more search brokers, Steiner), the output information is a second object connected to the respective object which occurs after the respective object (Fig. 3, item 304, Page 4, [0036], lines 3 – 6, finds search brokers, Steiner), the input auxiliary information is a third object connected to the respective object which occurs before the respective object and which is different from the first object (Fig. 3, item 309, Page 4, [0039], lines 3 – 9, the search broker forwards the resource query to those candidate resource providers, Steiner), and the output auxiliary information is a fourth object connected to the respective object which occurs

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[12] Wherein the step of maintaining a database, particularly a table (as cited in Page 3, Table 1, Steiner) including a Resource, ResourceDescription, and ResourceQuery corresponds to the step of storing the input information as claimed.

[13] Wherein examiner interprets the step of transforming the query terms into an index using a hash function as the step of analyzing performance relating combination of acting objects in accordance with a relation claimed.

after the respective object and which is different from the second object (Page 2, [0014], lines 10 – 13, Steiner).

Regarding Claim 16, Steiner discloses a storage medium having stored therein an organization information analysis program operable for analyzing organization expressed by combining a plurality of acting organization objects, the program comprising the steps of:

designating input information for one or more of the objects (Fig. 2, item 201, Page 2, [0024], lines 1 – 4, resource requester, Steiner), and designating auxiliary input information for one or more of the objects (Fig. 2, item 203, Page 2, [0024], lines 4 – 6, broker computer, Steiner);

storing the input information (Page 3, Table 1, [0027] and [0029], lines 4 – 6 and 1 – 4; respectively, Steiner[14]) and the auxiliary input information (Page 2, and 3, [0012], and [0027], lines 4 – 6, and 4 – 6, findResourceProviders, and maintain a database; respectively, Steiner); and

analyzing a performance relating to a combination of a plurality of acting organization objects in accordance with the input information property based on the recorded objects (Page 6, [0077], and [0084], lines 3 – 10, and 1 – 7; respectively, Steiner[15]),

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[14] Wherein the step of maintaining a database, particularly a table (as cited in Page 3, Table 1, Steiner) including a Resource, ResourceDescription, and ResourceQuery corresponds to the step of storing the input information as claimed.

[15] Wherein examiner interprets the step of transforming the query terms into an index using a hash function as the step of analyzing performance relating combination of acting objects in accordance with a relation claimed.

in which for a respective object (Page 5, [0048], lines "search resources", Steiner), the input information is a first object connected to the respective object which occurs before the respective object (Fig. 3, item 311, Page 4, [0038], lines 5 – 10, the resource requester transmits a resource query to one or more search brokers, Steiner), and the input auxiliary information is a second object connected to the respective object which occurs before the respective object and which is different from the first object (Fig. 3, item 309, Page 4, [0039], lines 3 – 9, the search broker forwards the resource query to those candidate resource providers, Steiner).

Regarding Claim 17, Steiner discloses a storage medium having stored therein an organization information analysis program operable for analyzing organization expressed by combining a plurality of acting organization objects, the program comprising the steps of:

designating output information for one or more of the objects (Fig. 2, item 205, Page 2, [0024], lines 1 – 4, resource provider, Steiner), and designating auxiliary output information for one or more of the objects (Fig. 2, item 207, Page 2 and 6, [0024] and [0088], lines 1 – 4 and 1 – 5; respectively, resource provider, Steiner);

storing the output information (Page 2, and 4, [0014], and [0042], lines 10 – 13, and 1 – 6; respectively, Steiner) and the auxiliary output information (Page 2, [0014], lines 10 – 13, Steiner); and

analyzing a performance relating to a combination of a plurality of acting organization objects in accordance with the output information property based on the

recorded objects (Page 6, [0077], and [0084], lines 3 – 10, and 1 – 7; respectively, Steiner[16]),

in which for a respective object (Page 5, [0048], lines "search resources", Steiner), the output information is a first object connected to the respective object which occurs after the respective object (Fig. 3, item 304, Page 4, [0036], lines 3 – 6, finds search brokers, Steiner), and the output auxiliary information is a second object connected to the respective object which occurs after the respective object and which is different from the first object (Page 2, [0014], lines 10 – 13, Steiner).

[16] Wherein examiner interprets the step of transforming the query terms into an index using a hash

Response to Arguments

1. Applicant argues that the prior art fails to disclose; "the features of claim 1".

Examiner respectfully disagrees. The applied art does disclose all the features of claim 1 as amended (See 102 rejection of claim 1 in this office action as discussed above).

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function as the step of analyzing performance relating combination of acting objects in accordance with a

Prior Art Made Of Record

1. Steiner al. (US Patent Pub. App. No. 2003/0065774 A1, filed: May 24, 2001) discloses a Peer-to- Peer based distributed search architecture in a networked environment.

2. Haswell et al. (US Patent No. 6,502,102 B1) discloses a system, method and article of manufacture for a table-driven automated scripting architecture.

3. Underwood (US Patent No. 6,601,233 B1) discloses a business components framework.

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relation claimed.

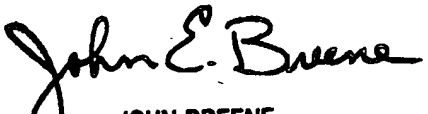
Points Of Contact

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Giovanna Colan whose telephone number is (571) 272-2752. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30 am - 5:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Breene can be reached on (571) 272-4107. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

g. c.
Examiner
Art Unit 2162



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